

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/GB2004/002740

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61G7/10 A61F15/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPO

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61G A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| X | US 4 051 565 A (BERGE TRYGVE) 4 October 1977 (1977-10-04) | 1-3 |
| A | column 3, line 36 - line 47; figure 1 | 4-7 |
| X | EP 0 966 892 A (SIEWERT RONALD R) 29 December 1999 (1999-12-29) | 1-3 |
| A | paragraphs [0001], [0048], [0049]; figures 1-15 | 4-8 |
| X | US 3 648 291 A (PANKERS ALVA L) 14 March 1972 (1972-03-14) | 1,3,7,8 |
| A | the whole document | 2,4-6 |
| X | GB 2 338 700 A (STRONG PHILIP WALTER) 29 December 1999 (1999-12-29) | 1,3 |
| A | page 11 - page 14; figures 1-4 | 2-7 |
| | -/-- | |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 September 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

04 NOV 2004

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| A | EP 0 469 767 A (INVENTIVE PROD INC) 5 February 1992 (1992-02-05) column 4, line 34 - line 38; figures 1-3 ----- | 1 |

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 10
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 6.2 (a) PCT.
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/002740

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|---|---------------------|---|--|
| US 4051565 | A | 04-10-1977 | NONE | |
| EP 0966892 | A | 29-12-1999 | DE 19921203 A1 DE 29816198 U1 EP 0966892 A2 | 30-12-1999 25-02-1999 29-12-1999 |
| US 3648291 | A | 14-03-1972 | NONE | |
| GB 2338700 | A | 29-12-1999 | NONE | |
| EP 0469767 | A | 05-02-1992 | US 5005232 A AT 119760 T DE 69108134 D1 DE 69108134 T2 EP 0469767 A1 ES 2070432 T3 GR 3015425 T3 JP 2944763 B2 JP 6339500 A | 09-04-1991 15-04-1995 20-04-1995 06-07-1995 05-02-1992 01-06-1995 30-06-1995 06-09-1999 13-12-1994 |